

Round Two

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For most community and non-transient, non-community systems, 2004 marks the beginning of the second round of sanitary surveys being completed using the enhanced sanitary survey form. Due to the personnel changes at the state, there are a few of these systems in a couple of the field areas which may not have had their first sanitary survey completed, and transient systems are scheduled to have a sanitary survey completed every five years, so not all of these systems have seen the enhanced survey form yet either. Although there have been some minor changes to the form in the last three years, the information being collected is essentially the same. The second survey should be easier and quicker to complete than the original, as much of the system information will be the same and will not need to be changed. In preparing for the second round of sanitary surveys, systems should keep in mind that there are several items in the survey that need to be updated or reviewed on a regular basis. Included in these are items that the state requests on an annual basis, those that the system must remember to complete on an annual basis and those that have their own timeline in which to be completed.

Towards the beginning of each calendar year, the state sends a notice to each community system advising them that they need to submit a current coliform sampling site plan. This form now has a place to check that will indicate that the system is using the same sampling site plan as the previous year. In the past, several systems were checking this box when they had never submitted a sampling site plan, but the state now has a sampling site plan on file for most systems, and this box can be checked if they are planning to use the same sampling points. It is important that the system review the sampling points on the current sampling site plan to determine that these are the sites the system has been and will continue to use. These sites may be changed anytime the system wants to change them, but as these changes must be reported to the state, a good time to make desired changes would be when making the annual report. Emergency phone contact lists and system operator lists also need to be updated annually, and these are sent to systems at the beginning of each year. The old lists can be used if there have been no changes, but systems need to make sure that all personal and business information on these forms is up-to-date and accurate.

Other items that need to be reviewed or updated on an annual basis include the system emergency plan. This plan should be reviewed to determine that all personnel and businesses named in the plan still exist and are capable of performing the tasks assigned to them in the plan. Addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses, where applicable, need to be checked to verify they are current and accurate. Elective and appointed positions need to be checked to determine who is currently filling them, and the contact information needs to be updated as these positions are filled by new people. Emergency plans should be checked to insure they contain both a short-term and long-term alternative source for drinking water in the event of system contamination. The ongoing public education requirement of the cross connection control program needs to be

completed on at least an annual basis, and records need to be kept to show what the system has done to meet this requirement and when it was completed. Testable backflow preventers in the system need to be tested on at least an annual basis, and the completed test reports need to be on file where they are available for inspection during regular business hours. This provision does not apply to lawn sprinkler systems not capable of injecting chemicals unless the system requires these assemblies to be tested. The short and long-term plan for the system also needs to be reviewed annually. The system should be reviewed as a whole, and the short and long-term plan should be examined to see that it meets the future needs and expectations of the system. This evaluation could be done in conjunction with the one and six-year street plan for municipal systems, as this is a time when the governing body is looking into the future and planning for the system's future needs.

Cross connection control surveys need to be completed by every customer of the system at least every five years, and they should be examined on an annual basis to assure that they are not overdue. Lead and Copper sampling sites should be reviewed to determine if the sampling sites need to be changed due to plumbing changes in customers internal piping. Most systems are on reduced monitoring for lead and copper, and owners of sampling sites should be questioned prior to taking routine samples to insure they have not altered their piping in a manner that could negate the samples or cause them to result in false high results. Examples of this type of a plumbing change could be the installation of a water softener or the replacement of old piping with new copper pipes. System maps need to be kept updated, although this does not mean that the system is required to hire an engineer to print new maps every year. Making handwritten changes on existing maps will satisfy the requirement of having up-to-date system maps, and they only need to be professionally redone when they become difficult to read or use due to age or excessive "notes".

In addition to these things, other records will be examined during the sanitary survey. Laboratory results for all contaminants checked in the system need to be kept where they can be inspected as needed. Well records showing gallons pumped, hours run, drawdown readings and well maintenance should be readily available. System maintenance records showing work done to keep the system in good condition should also be available. Customer complaints should be kept on file, and responses to these complaints, including records of what was discovered and what was done to alleviate the condition should be available. Keeping all of these records up-to-date and readily available will help make the second round of the sanitary survey a less stressful event. It would also be a good idea for the water operator to make regular checks of all system components to insure they are in good repair and functioning as designed to provide good and safe drinking water to all customers.